

Nov. 11th, 1863
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Nashville, Ten. Nov. 14 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Stevenson, Ala.
Nov. 11th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

Last night I recd a letter from Capt. Woodruff, dated Oct. 30th forwarded by Capt. Welch who has just returned from Conscript Camp – It contained a picture of himself done upon a \$10 Greenback – Nothing could have been more timely & at last I feel some relief – You never told me that he had remitted, or I should have been less urgent in some of my late communications – But the truth is we have been reduced to great straits, & nothing but money could bring relief – Others recd remittances from home but all my letters came without the needful – Don't be surprised that I wrote strongly – When all get low I tell you men don't care for others – I will see to it that my purse don't grow to lean again – We now expect the pay master this week & when he has made his most welcome visit I expect the long wished pictures will begin to arrive from home – I hope to hear soon from that box & to get hold of something like (*Pg. 2*) a decent article – What the sutlers have to sell is a miserable counterfeit – Their can oysters & fruit is flashy & not half of it fit for a hog – Last week I got half a pound of fair butter for 30ct. – This morning they asked 75cts. for what is called a pound can – You can not see it until opened, which is not done except you agree to buy – These fellows are a set of blood suckers & I wish they were utterly cleaned out of the army – But we can buy fresh beef xc of the commissary – If we remain here I shall order more from home, for it cost less than to buy of the jews & Stars! What a difference in quality –

Yesterday I employed Sergt. Barnes to build us a chimney – We have a wall tent & fly, that is Lt. Royce & myself – The seam opposite the entrance was split & there I have a snug fire place, beside which this sheet is being filled – It gives our quarters a very cozy appearance – Last winter we always used a stove, when we had anything – but the fire place is far preferable – It really looks (*Pg. 3*) cheerful & for comfort you can not tell how much it is worth – Since Sunday until today the weather has been very chilly – The wind fairly sought the bone & at night especially we felt the need of a fire – You know about the size of a wall tent – On one side is our bunk made of boards – We have four blankets & of course are in no danger of sleeping cold – Just one side of the entrance in the opposite corner from the bunk stands our extemporised table – a very creditable piece of cabinet work, made from pieces of hard tack & clothing boxes – A pole extends from this to the other corner along the side of the tent on which is hung this & that thing – Canteens & haversacks, towel, swords xc – Midway of the same side on the ground stands the Company Book box, containing all the records & official papers – In the corner below

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the bunk is the cupboard, another hard tack box with two shelves – There our kitchen ware is set away & whatever provisions we may have on hand – The part appropriated thus has been not well (*Pg. 4*) or variously adorned – A few bits of hard bread, with corners a good deal rounded because long carried & a little tea told the whole story of our commissariat – But today we have made a purchase & you could be entertained with tea & sugar – fair bread & rancid butter & also a slice of pork – Yes, we could set before you some sutlers sweet meats – Royce went in for a can of fruit – They are fresh raspberries according to the label – But the most part is water colored with a few real raspberries – However we feel pretty good & get off as many Jokes as though our table was supplied with a long list of delicacies – The fire place is the main thing just now & that sends out such genial warmth that we can't help being happy – Now don't you wish you could sit down beside our glowing fire & see how soldiers live when they are comfortable – I have no news of matters here – Things are quiet with us – We hear that Meade has gained a decided advantage on the Rappahannock – But I am not well posted in general news – Intend to buy a paper to-morrow - Do you take the Tribune? – If so send me a copy occasionally – Is Harriet Andrews in Poughkeepsie? Another thing – You did not state whether father was buried in the new or old cemetery – I suppose of course he was laid beside Mother – Keep me posted on all matters pertaining to the business – How much milk does your cow give? You don't tell me enough about the stock – Be a little more communicative – Have you potatoes enough for your own use?

But here is love, fireside love

A. Upson